

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK

SUBJ: UK DEFENSE REVIEW; DPC MEETING MARCH 11

REF: A. USNATO 1295; B. USNATO 1328; C. STATE 053923

SUMMARY: DPC MET MARCH 11 TO CONSIDER UK MOD MASON'S REPLY TO SYG LUNS' LETTER ON UK DEFENSE REVIEW AND IS-PRODUCED DRAFT PRESS RELEASE. SEVERAL PERMREPS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH COMPENSATORY MEASURES AND ADDITIONAL DEPLOYMENT OPTIONS DESCRIBED IN MASON LETTER. SOME PERMREPS QUESTIONED NEED FOR NATO PRESS RELEASE. DISCUSSION OF PRESS RELEASE TEXT BOGGED DOWN OVER DRAFTING DETAILS. DPC COMMISSIONED DRC TO PRODUCE WORKABLE DRAFT WHICH DPC WILL CONSIDER FRIDAY, MARCH 14. END SUMMARY.

1. AT MARCH 11 DPC DISCUSSION OF UK MOD MASON LETTER TO SYG (REF A) AND IS DRAFT NATO PRESS RELEASE (REF B) DEALING WITH UK DEFENSE REVIEW, SYG LUNS OPENED MEETING BY RECALLING RESULTS OF

PREVIOUS DPC CONSULTATIONS. PERMREPS THEN SPOKE ON SUBSTANCE OF BOTH MASON LETTER AND DRAFT PRESS RELEASE. FOLLOWING PARA-CONFIDENTIAL

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GRAPHS SEPARATE THESE TWO ISSUES FOR CLEAITY.

2. MASON LETTER. LOGAN (UK) EMPHASIZED THAT, WITHIN FINANCIAL LIMITS, NATO CONSULTATIONS HAD PRODUCED CHANGES IN UK PLANS. HE NOTED THAT UK HAD TRIED ESPECIALLY TO SATISFY ALLIANCE CONCERNS

ON NAVAL FORCE REDUCTIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. POINTING TO PARAGRAPH SEVEN OF THE MASON LETTER, HE STATED THAT UK DOES NOT REGARD THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION AS FINISHED; THAT HIS AUTHORITIES ARE PREPARING FOR DISCUSSIONS, INITIALLY WITH MNC'S, AND WILL REPORT TO DPC ON THEIR OUTCOME. CATALANO (ITALY) EXPRESSED GRATITUDE AND SATISFACTION WITH RESTORATIONS AND ADVISED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES ARE READY AT ANY TIME TO DISCUSS BILATERALLY ADDITIONAL DEPLOYMENT OPTIONS SPECIFIED IN MASON LETTER. MENZIES (CANADA) STATED THAT HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE TONE AND CONTENT OF THE MASON LETTER, AND THAT REVISED UK PROGRAM SHOWS CONSIDERABLE EFFORT WITHIN THE LIMITS OF UK ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. AMBASSADOR BRUCE (US) STATED THAT US NOTED MASON LETTER WITH GREAT INTEREST. HE CONTINUED THAT US HAD NOT HAD SUFFICIENT TIME TO STUDY COMPENSATORY MEASURES AND ADDITIONAL DEPLOYMENT OPTIONS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPHS SIX AND SEVEN IN DETAIL, HOWEVER US WELCOMED THE FORMER AND HOPED TO SEE THE LATTER COME TO FRUITION. HE ADVISED THAT US WOULD CONTINUE TO STUDY MEASURES DESCRIBED BY MR. MASON. BAL (BELGIUM) NOTED MASON LETTER WITH SATISFACTION, PARTICULARLY RESTORATIONS TO MEDITERRANEAN AND SOUTHER FLANK REINFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES. HE ALSO WELCOMED LOGAN CONFIRMATION OF PROSPECT OF CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS. ADMIRAL HILL-NORTON (CHAIRMAN, MILITARY COMMITTEE) ADVISED THAT MILITARY COMMITTEE WOULD REPORT UK CONSULTATIONS WITH MNC'S ON ADDITIONAL DEPLOYMENT OPTIONS TO DPC.

3. DRAFT PRESS RELEASE. LOGAN (UK) ADVISED THAT UK WAS NOT ASKING NATO FOR A PRESS STATEMENT, BUT THAT GIVEN ONE, HE HAD SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS FOR LATER DISCUSSION. MENZIES (CANADA) ALSO DOUBTED NEED FOR PUBLIC STATEMENT AND FOUND IS DRAFT TOO STRONG AS PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF CONCERN FOR EFFECT OF UK REDUCTIONS ON ALLIANCE DEFENSE. HE DECLARED THAT NATO WAS NOT QUOTE MORTALLY WOUNDED END QUOTE. SYG LUNS SAID HE DID NOT FIND THOSE WORDS IN THE DRAFT, AND COMMENTED THAT IDEA OF PRESS RELEASE ON CONSULTATIONS HAD BECOME NATO PRACTICE. HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT UK WAS WILLING TO FOREGO NATO PRESS RELEASE, BUT AGREED WITH MENZIES THAT PUBLIC STATE-CONFIDENTIAL

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MENT SHOULD NOT OVEREMPHASIZE WEAKNESSES IN ALLIED DEFENSE. CATALANO (ITALY) ALSO AGREED THAT WEAKNESSES NEED NOT BE STATED SPECIFICALLY.

4. LOGAN (UK) THEN OUTLINED UK DIFFICULTIES WITH SPECIFICS OF IS DRAFT. HE FOUND IS DRAFT TREATMENT OF POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF UK CHANGES "DANGEROUS." LOGAN, SUPPORTED BY MENZIES, ALSO STATED UK DESIRE TO MODIFY SUB-PARAGRAPH 1C TO ELIMINATE ALL REFERENCE TO REGIONAL AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN. MENZIES, SVART (DENMARK) AND CATALANO (ITALY) ALL RECOMMENDED FURTHER DELETIONS FROM PARAGRAPH 1C TO RENDER IT EVEN MORE BLAND. ADMIRAL HILL-NORTON STATED THAT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND PURPOSE OF A WATERED-DOWN DRAFT; THAT IF DPC WERE ENGAGED IN A PUBLIC RELATIONS EXERCISE "IT DOESN'T"

MATTER MUCH WHAT YOU SAY," BUT IF INTENT WERE PUBLIC STATEMENT
OF NATO VIEW, STATEMENT SHOULD BEAR SOME RELATION TO THAT VIEW.
LUNS AGREED. AMBASSADOR BRUCE THEN OFFERED SUBSTANTIVE
CHANGES TO IS DRAFT TO MAKE CLEAR FIRMNESS OF UK DECISION,
MADE BEFORE CONSULTATIONS BEGAN, ON AMOUNT OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURE
REDUCTIONS, AND FACT THAT TESTORATIONS FOLLOWING CONSULTATION
WOULD NOT RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT EXTRA COST. (US CHANGES PARA-
PHRASED LANGUAGE USED BY UK MOD MASON AT DECEMBER DPC
MINISTERIAL AND MASON LETTER TO SYG LUNS.) SYG LUNS THEN
ANNOUNCED THAT NUMBER OF CHANGES OFFERED BY PERMREPS DICTATED
NEED FOR A FRESH DRAFT. HE DIRECTED IS TO PRODUCE DRAFT BASED
ON DPC DISCUSSION FOR CONSIDERATION BY DRC REPEAT DRC MARCH 12.
DPC WILL MEET FOR FINAL APPROVAL FRIDAY, MARCH 14. MISSION
COMMENT: MISSION WILL FORWARD DRAFT AGREED BY DRC AS SOON AS
AVAILABLE FOR WASHINGTON APPROVAL.BRUCE

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